

WETLAND RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

- a. This site is on depressions in glacial till plains, lake basins, and outwash channels. Slopes are commonly less than one percent. This site normally receives additional amounts of water from surface runoff and/or underground seepage.

2. SOILS

- a. These are deep, very poorly drained soils. Soil texture has little effect as to the kind of vegetation on the site. Water stands over the surface for a major part of the growing season. Permeability of these soils is slow and available water capacity is high.
- b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

Benoit loam
Grano clay, silty clay, and silty clay loam
Parnell silt loam and silty clay loam
Venlo sandy loam and fine sandy loam

Refer to Section II-A for a complete list of soil taxonomic units and range sites.

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

- a. Plants that are characteristic of this site are adapted to wet conditions but not so wet as to support marsh vegetation. This site supports a variety of tall grasses, sedges, and rushes. Principal plants are rivergrass, American mannagrass, prairie cordgrass, slim sedge, and slough sedge. Other species are American sloughgrass, northern reedgrass, Baltic rush, and common spikesedge. Several forb species occur in small amounts on this site. Woody plants such as willows may occur near the edge of this site.
- b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of rivergrass, slough sedge, prairie cordgrass, and northern reedgrass. Species that increase are slim sedge, Baltic rush, common spikesedge, and American sloughgrass.

Further deterioration of the site results in a plant composition of Baltic rush, common spikesedge, and undesirable forbs such as Nuttall cinquefoil and Mexican dock.

2--Wetland Range Site

- c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 6000 to 7000 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending on growing conditions.
- d. A detailed description of the vegetation in excellent condition is as follows:

Relative Percent Composition of the Potential Vegetation

	Mean Productivity	
	lbs/acre	% composition
Grasses		
Rivergrass	1980	30
American mannagrass	330	5
Prairie cordgrass		
American sloughgrass		
Northern reedgrass		
Other grasses		
Grasslikes		
Slough sedge*	3300	50
Slim sedge**	330	5
Baltic rush	330	5
Common spikesedge		
Burreed		
Other grasslikes		
Forbs		
Long-rooted smartweed	330	5
Mexican dock		
Western waterplaintain		
Waterparsnip		
Other forbs		
Shrubs		
Sandbar willow	T***	-
Other willow species		
Total	6600	100

* Includes smoothcone, beaked, and water sedges.

** Includes woolly sedge.

*** T refers to trace amounts, 2½ percent weight or less.

3--Wetland Range Site

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

- a. This site is suitable for cattle or may be utilized for hay. Except in dry years grazing is limited to summer and fall because of wet conditions in the spring. Due to good moisture conditions, green forage is available during the summer and early fall.

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

- a. White-tailed deer obtain forage and cover on this site. Small mammals such as mink, muskrat, and the red fox use this site. It provides good nesting cover for several species of waterfowl such as the mallard, pintail, gadwall, and blue-winged teal. Shorebirds attracted to this site are species like Wilson's phalarope, willet, and killdeer. Common songbirds found here are the red-winged blackbird, Brewers blackbird, meadowlark, and robin.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

- a. The wetland range site adds color to the rolling grasslands, especially during summer and fall. A variety of tall grasses, sedges, and flowering plants adds to scenery of the landscape. Recreational activities associated with this site are hunting, plant study, and bird watching.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

- a. This site has a high permanent water table and commonly ponds water in the spring. The soil has a very slow rate of water transmission.

8. A TYPICAL SITE LOCATION IN THIS AREA IS AS FOLLOWS

